

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Spokane, Washington

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Spokane, Washington

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 195,629
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 87.9% white; 2.0% black/African American; 1.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.2% Asian; 0.2% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other; 3.0% two or more races; and 3.0% Hispanic/Latino (any race)
- Spokane is located in Spokane County.

Politics

- Mayor: John T. Powers, Jr.²
- City Council Members: Rob Higgins (Council President), Roberta Greene (Council President Pro Tem), Steve Corker, Steve Eugster, Al French, Dennis Hession, Cherie Rodgers³
- Chief of Police: Roger Bragdon⁴
- Sheriff: Mark K. Sterk⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
Designated in 1997, the Northwest HIDTA is responsible for Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima counties in Washington.
- Meth Action Team⁷
Prosecutors, police, counselors, teachers and health officials have united to form a Meth Action Team to combat meth production, trafficking and use in Spokane. The Meth Action Team promotes legislative changes concerning ephedrine, a higher tax on the chemicals used to make meth, more neighborhood involvement, and more meth education in area schools.
- Drug-Free/Gun-Free Zones⁸
The Drug-Free/Gun-Free Zones were established in Spokane in 1993 in compliance with State and Federal guidelines. One facet of the program is to educate schools, communities, and law enforcement on laws and penalties for violating the restriction around all schools and city parks. Additionally, the program involves the posting of uniform signs around the areas. When signs are posted, violators have notification of their proximity to school and park zones and the severity of crimes that take place there. It is believed that effective enforcement of the Drug-Free/Gun-Free Zones deters gang and school-related violence.
- Changing Our Lives Together (C.O.L.T.)⁹
C.O.L.T. embraces issues of teen substance abuse, gang involvement and violence prevention, with a unique and positive approach. Volunteers, education, equine therapy and a family-like atmosphere involve children from 'at-risk' neighborhoods in a world beyond their streets.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program¹⁰
Since funding was first made available through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program in FY 1998, only one Spokane coalition has received funding. In FY 1999, the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council Prevention Center received \$99,847.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹¹
There are no sites in Spokane that have received official recognition or Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FY 2001 Discretionary Funds received in Spokane:¹²
 - Center for Mental Health Services:
 - \$150,000 to Educational Service District 101. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/03
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
 - No grant recipients
 - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
 - \$185,335 to Healing Lodge of Seven Nations. Project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03
 - \$500,000 to Spokane Regional Health District. Project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03
- Spokane did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹³
- FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant amount received in Spokane:¹⁴
 - \$222,222 was awarded to the Spokane County Sheriff's Department
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amounts received in Spokane:¹⁵
 - \$124,287 to Mt. Vernon Terrace Apartments
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received by Spokane recipients:¹⁶
 - \$674,413 in formula funds
 - \$3,489,886 in discretionary funds

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to July 2002, there were 14 murders reported by the Spokane Police Department. During full year 2001, 7 murders were reported.¹⁷

Number of Part 1 Offenses Known to Police, Spokane, 1999-July 2002

Offense	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-July 2002
Murder	7	9	7	14
Forcible rape	82	69	79	43
Robbery	364	370	440	225
Aggravated assault	920	787	883	473
Burglary	3,152	2,969	3,101	1,525
Larceny-theft	9,484	10,819	10,792	6,023
Vehicle theft	968	1,295	1,771	1,037

- From January to June 2002, the Spokane Police Department reported 442 felony drug arrests.¹⁸

Number of Felony Drug Arrests, Spokane, 1998-June 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 2002
Marijuana	113	86	56	39	20
Marijuana grow	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	11
Heroin	78	70	63	67	39
Ecstasy	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	0
Cocaine	70	64	64	64	29
Crack	256	236	206	164	76
Hallucinogens	16	5	3	2	1
OxyContin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1
Prescriptions	38	33	23	35	20
Methamphetamine	377	462	427	523	245
Total	948	983	842	909	442

- From 1992 to 1997, the number of Spokane felony drug arrests involving methamphetamine increased from 3 to 367.¹⁹

Number of Felony Drug Arrests, Spokane, 1992-1997

Drug Type	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Marijuana	92	51	48	53	82	76
Marijuana grow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heroin	15	9	35	91	71	59
Ecstasy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cocaine	156	36	75	65	95	67
Crack	133	316	576	395	454	214
Hallucinogens	20	9	9	13	11	21
OxyContin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prescriptions	8	16	16	12	24	24
Methamphetamine	3	14	79	305	165	367
Total	427	451	838	934	902	828

- Data for Spokane adult male arrestees indicate that 61.6% tested positive for drugs at arrest during 2001. 42.1% tested positive for marijuana; 19.5% tested positive for methamphetamine; 18.5% tested positive for cocaine; 8.1% tested positive for opiates; 2.3% tested positive for PCP; and 24.7% tested positive for multiple drugs.²⁰
- More than half of adult male arrestees in Spokane reported using marijuana within the past month. The marijuana users used the substance an average of 10.2 days within the month.²¹

Adult Male Arrestee Past Drug Use, Spokane, 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	11.8%	6.5%	44.9%	20.1%	5.6%
Past 30 days	15.8%	9.9%	52.9%	22.9%	6.8%
Past year	24.1%	17.5%	62.5%	29.9%	9.8%
Avg. # of days used in month	5.9	3.7	10.2	7.9	10.1

- The number of incidents reported by the Spokane Community Oriented Policing Substations unit for drug houses and drug activity increased from 367 in 1997 to 705 in 2001.²²
- The Spokane Police Department reports an increase in the number of pharmacy and residential burglaries.²³

Drugs

- Cocaine
Crack cocaine is readily available in Spokane and typically sells for \$20 per rock.²⁴
- Heroin
In FY 2002, heroin sold for \$180 per gram in Spokane.²⁵
- Methamphetamine
In Spokane during FY 2002, methamphetamine sold for \$4,000-\$9,000 per pound, \$550-\$750 per ounce, and \$40 per gram.²⁶
- Club Drugs
MDMA is readily available and abused by teens and young adults in Spokane.²⁷

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 401 full-time law enforcement employees in Spokane (293 officers and 108 civilians).²⁸
- Special Investigative Unit (SIU)²⁹
The Spokane Police Department's SIU is responsible for investigating drug-related crime. In addition, drug recognition and eradication training are provided to all law enforcement. All felony drug cases generated from patrol officers are assigned to the SIU.

Trafficking and Seizures

- MDMA is sometimes transported from Spokane to Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Utah.³⁰
- A major drug trafficking ring was disbanded by the DEA and local law enforcement in October 2002. From 2000-2002, two major businesses were used as cover in order to traffic "volume quantities" of MDMA, cocaine, and marijuana.³¹
- In August 2002, a local task force seized 1,240 cases of pseudoephedrine, which produces approximately 300 pounds of pure methamphetamine.³²
- During 2001, approximately 248 methamphetamine labs and dumpsites were reported in Spokane County.³³

- In FY 2000, U.S. Border Patrol agents at the Spokane and Blaine sectors seized almost 5,000 pounds of marijuana, accounting for nearly 70% of all of the marijuana seized at the Border during the year.³⁴

Courts

- **Drug Courts**³⁵
As of January 17, 2003, there were 2 drug courts in existence in Spokane. One of the drug courts has been operating for more than 2 years and the other was recently implemented. There are no additional drug courts being planned.
- Spokane County has created a special court to handle a growing backlog of methamphetamine cases. On January 21, 2003, Spokane County court officials stated that there were 187 cases awaiting trial that involved serious felony charges of methamphetamine manufacturing or distribution. An estimated 1,000 other cases are pending in county courts that involve less serious methamphetamine possession offenses.³⁶
- During FY 2001, approximately 31% (30.9%) of the Federally-sentenced defendants in eastern Washington had committed drug offenses. Forty-seven percent of the drug offenses (47 offenses) involved methamphetamine.³⁷

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Eastern Washington, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	# of Offenses	% of Total
Methamphetamine	47	47.0%
Marijuana	27	27.0
Powder cocaine	18	18.0
Crack cocaine	5	5.0
Heroin	3	3.0
Other	0	0

Consequences of Use

- During 2001, there were 22 methamphetamine-related events in Spokane County that were collected in the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance database. There were 12 injuries associated with the methamphetamine-related events.³⁸
- There were 54 drug-related deaths in Spokane County during 2001.³⁹

Drug and Alcohol Induced Deaths, Spokane County, 2001

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
Drug-related	54
Alcohol-related	48

Treatment

- Approximately 14% of adult male arrestees in Spokane in 2001 indicated that they received drug treatment within the past year.⁴⁰
- During FY 2001, there were 522 adult admissions to treatment in Spokane County with methamphetamine as the primary drug of abuse.⁴¹

Number of Adult Admissions to Treatment, Spokane County, 1996-2001

Primary Drug	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol	1,148	1,196	1,083	1,138	1,214	1,317
Marijuana	245	261	230	308	373	397
Methamphetamine	195	170	227	294	372	522
Cocaine	246	277	242	296	301	348
Heroin	205	246	207	201	246	223

- During FY 2001, there were 32 juvenile admissions to treatment in Spokane County with methamphetamine as the primary drug of abuse.⁴²

Number of Juvenile Admissions to Treatment, Spokane County, 1996-2001

Primary Drug	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol	117	154	108	127	119	141
Marijuana	256	369	295	365	362	379
Methamphetamine	27	18	29	9	31	32
Cocaine	11	12	5	12	11	11
Heroin	6	3	1	3	0	1

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Spokane Mayor's Office Web Site: <http://www.spokanecity.org/mayor/>

³ Spokane City Council Web Site: <http://www.spokanecity.org/council/>

⁴ Spokane Police Department Web Site: <http://www.spokanepolice.org/>

⁵ Spokane County Sheriff's Office Web Site: <http://www.spokanesherriff.org/>

⁶ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nw.html

⁷ *Crime Control Digest*, "Community Creates Meth Action Team," July 12, 2002

⁸ Spokane Police Department Web site, Programs section:

http://www.spokanepolice.org/other_programs.htm

⁹ Spokane Police Department, *2001 Community Oriented Policing Substations Annual Report*:

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¹⁰ Drug Free Communities Support Program Web site, Washington section:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/wa.html>

¹¹ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, Washington section:

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¹³ Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>

¹⁴ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf

¹⁵ Department of Housing and Urban Development, *FY 2001 Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*:

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- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ National Institute of Justice, *Drug Use and Related Matters Among Adult Arrestees, 2001*, November 2002: <http://www.adam-nij.net/files/adam2001.PDF>
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Spokane Police Department, *2001 Community Oriented Policing Substations Annual Report*:
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- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002:
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